

Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
4/22/75

Mr. Charles D. Ablard, General Counsel
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Ablard,

Each of the offices referred to in your letter of April 3 have written me and I have responded.

There remain problems. I believe to a degree these come from the right files and offices not being consulted. My request covered all agencies under the Secretary of Defense, not just the Army. Your letter does not include referral to all of these other agencies.

I will be more specific if you or the Secretary of Defense require it but in order to avoid seeming to cast aspersions where they might not be justified I here am not more specific.

One of the branches of the service responding denies having any records where I have seen at least two separate files on me within the past two years. Another of these responding has a record of one of these files. These being the actualities, is the initial denial more than worthless?

One of the branches finds identifications of two files but says these files have been destroyed. Yet I requested this same information prior to the alleged destruction of these files. I was then written that these files did not exist. (The public press has reported that files allegedly destroyed were not and were preserved in duplicate.)

I have written a long explanation of what files I know should exist. I hope it will lead to another and more fruitful search.

If you are responding for the Secretary of Defense I trust you would broaden your referrals to include all agencies. And that there will also be inquiries of other parts of the government to which information is generally routed routinely.

Aside from other interests in me I have been in (successful) litigation with the defense establishment in which the Army represented all branches. Not a single reference to this turned up although the last court decision was only last year. In connection with this alone there have to be records in the office of the Secretary of Defense, who was involved; all JAGs; flight manuals (I have copies); MDW; Forts Belvoir and Detrick; Second Army; General Counsel, DOD; Assistant Secretary of the Army for Fiscal Management; probably your office; and a number of other installations. Oh, yes, Halabird, too. By going over my records I'd probably find more.

Since my initial request Congress has enacted the Privacy Act. I think it should be applicable. And I do think that with the new policy the government has announced the cost of such a search as now appears necessary ought not be charged to any citizen. With this new policy there is a public interest to be served by full inquiry and full response to my inquiries going back to the first, one it is now clear was not answered honestly.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg